

MAIL SUPPLEMENT TO THE HONGKONG DAILY PRESS

HONGKONG, THURSDAY, MAY 12TH, 1892.

THE SALE OF MANILA LOTTERY TICKETS IN HONGKONG.

Advertising to the question of the suppression of the traffic in the Manila Lottery Tickets in this Colony which the Hon. E. R. Bellasis is laudably anxious to see effected, it may be useful to consider in what way, if any, this is practicable. The advantages of a free port are great and manifold, and as exemplified in the case of Hongkong stand out very prominently defined. Through this freedom from Customs dues and restrictions an enormous shipping trade is here centred, much of which would otherwise have passed by the port. Some great industries which we trust are the forerunners of others equally important have been established and flourished, and a large and thriving population has been collected in this crowded city of Victoria, which half a century ago had such very modest beginnings. Great wealth has been accumulated—and lately, we regret to add, lost—here, and will be made again. But even so good a thing as free trade, with all its beneficial consequences, may bring in its train some results not so desirable. For instance, it enables a certain amount of traffic in wares of an undesirable character, among which in this connection may be named the Manila Lottery Tickets. These tickets come by steamer from Manila probably in parcels, though a smaller number find their way to purchasers through the post. Now the Police might, by searching the steamers on arrival, easily lay hands on consignments of these tickets, but many would be sure to be smuggled ashore by passengers, while those despatched through the post could not well be intercepted. Moreover there is little doubt that in the event the steamers being searched when in port, Chinese craft would go out to meet them and receive the prohibited tickets. The difficulties in even putting down the sale within the Colony will prove very great. The Chinese are the chief vendors of these tickets, and they are both cautious and wary. Of course by keeping up penalties until the risk run by the seller is simply ruinous, the business may be checked to some extent, but so long as there are willing, indeed we may say eager, buyers there will be a ready supply. Probably the commission may be doubled or trebled to help cover the chances of confiscation and an indemnity for occasional terms of imprisonment—but then will be Chinese ready to run the hazard for the sake of profit, and for mere love of gambling, which is inherent in most of them. That it is most desirable this drain on the monetary resources, now attenuated, of the Colony should be stopped will be readily conceded, we imagine, by all respectable residents, whether European or Chinese, but the task will not prove an easy one. As, however, the Government have undertaken, like some other administrations, to make men virtuous and steady, they must take care that that legislation is what the Yankee would call hidebound, proof against insidious foes, not so constructed that a coach can be driven through it. The famous Gambling Bill, to be effective, will have to be amended, and that in the sense of being made more repressive. It is obvious that, while we forbid the Weising and other Chinese lotteries, the Manila tickets ought not to be suffered free circulation among the community. And any legislation in the direction of regulating an evil which we always must maintain cannot be wholly suppressed, is, we fear, now quite out of the sphere of practical politics.

THE HONGKONG GARRISON.

The arrival on the 7th instant of the Hongkong Regiment in the P. & O. steamer *Bombay* is an event of no little interest and importance to this Colony. By this addition to its strength the Garrison, if not brought up to position to defend the island against all comers, is at least rendered capable of offering some resistance to invasion instead of being unable to face any respectable force that might be brought suddenly against it. The Regiment consists of a fine looking body of men, about a thousand strong, good fighting material, active, lithes, of good physique, and no doubt gifted with plenty of endurance. If they should ever be called upon to repel an invader they would be sure to give a good account of themselves. Their arrival brings the strength of the Garrison to something closely approximating to that given in the Army Estimates for 1892-93, and when the balance of the Indian Artillery, one company, arrive, the War Office will have redone its pledge to the Colony to reinforce the Garrison to such a point as to make it the barrier to the *Manila* batteries that have been erected for its defence. It is true that the War Office has taken ample time to fulfil its promise, and meantime has drawn money before delivery; but better late than never, so long as it is not too late to avert disaster.

It may be of some interest, at the present moment, to recall the circumstances which led to the increase of the Garrison. Prior to 1884 there were no fortifications of a permanent character or worth of the name. Events had, however, by that time forced the minds of the Military Authorities the necessity of making some provision for the protection of the coaling stations, a report was called for on the subject, and the Under Secretary of State for War, in a despatch to the Colonial Office dated the 19th March, 1884, intimated that the report of the Inspector-General of Fortifications on the proposed defences had decided the War Office on first considering the defence of the naval stations of Singapore and Hongkong. The Inspector-General had stated in that report:—“Hongkong is probably underexisting circumstances the most liable to attack of all our important coaling stations. Its value to our Eastern trade is so great that it should be made secure against such enter-

prise as may reasonably be anticipated.” Accordingly a scheme of fortifications was decided on, the cost of the works (estimated at £55,632) to be borne by the Colony, and that of the armament (estimated at £27,500) by the Imperial Government. When, however, these came to be carried into effect, the scheme was considerably expanded, and the works eventually cost the Colony when completed £116,000, while the armament caused the Imperial Government an outlay of £13,910. The latter also expended £10,17 in submarine mining buildings and £26,50 in submarine mining vessels and stores. Little was said at this time about the increase of the Garrison or of an addition to the military contribution, but it was intimated that a further communication on that head would follow in due course.

With regard to the increase of the Garrison the first idea, we believe, was to reinforce it with two batteries of Artillery and two regiments of the line. One additional battery of Artillery was sent out shortly after the fortifications were commenced, and the detachment of Royal Engineers was necessary soon increased from about 25 men to a full company. A company of native Submarine Miners has since been formed and attached to the Royal Engineers. But the question of materially augmenting the forces was left in abeyance until the commencement of 1890, when Lord Knutsford, in a despatch to the Governor, communicated the intentions of the War Office on the subject. In this despatch he stated that it was intended to raise the Garrison to some three thousand of all arms and ranks, by the addition of two more companies of Indian Artillery and a regiment of Indian Infantry. At the same time he announced that the military contribution, which up to 1888 had been £20,000 per annum, an amount fixed on the basis of the cost of the Garrison being £16,000, would now be raised to £40,000 as the additions to its strength would bring the yearly cost up to £280,000. To this demand, small when compared to the £100,000 asked from the Straits Settlements, the colonists would not have made much demur had the reinforcements been promptly despatched. But when the increased contribution was demanded on the faith of a promise then set out at that time no intention of carrying early into effect, the colonists were naturally afraid, and the general alarm was accentuated by the manner in which it was enforced, and the subversive shown by Lord Knutsford and the then Governor, Sir William Den Verz, to the imperious demands of the War Office. However, all that it is past now and is matter of history, but we hope that henceforward a rule will be adopted with regard to the military contribution of payment for results, that is to say that the colony will be asked to pay its proportion not for the troops in the Estimates but for those actually in Garrison. According to the Estimates for 1892-93, the total of all ranks is 2,993, and with the arrival of the *Bombay* Regiment the strength is nearly attained. The Sharpshooting Light Infantry is probably 100 short of its strength on paper, and there still remains one company of Indian Artillery of 110 men, to arrive. But no doubt the remaining company will follow shortly and the Garrison will then be approximately what was promised, a strength which ought to be most carefully maintained.

ROAD CONSTRUCTION IN HONGKONG.
Among the things that might have been foreseen we are induced to class the Macdonnell Road, now in course of construction and nearly completed. This road, starting from the back of the *caudors*' huts on Garden Road, and in reach which a substantial arched stone bridge had to be made across the Albany Nullah hardly less expensive than the Kennedy Road Bridge, runs along the face of the hills half way between Kennedy and Bowen Roads. To carry it over the Treadway another bridge had to be erected, and a high embankment raised, while further on at the back of Union Church some stiff cutting had to be done and a third though smaller bridge built over the newly trained water course east of the Mause. Of course this road will open up some valuable building sites, but unfortunately there is now no demand for land or houses, nor is there likely to be much inquiry for these sites for some years to come. We believe the work was initiated by the late Surveyor-General, and having been partially done, it was thought best, presumably, to have it completed. The road will, of course, afford another variety to pedestrians but as it follows the same course as the Kennedy and Bowen Roads and is in most respects inferior to both those popular walks its value in this respect will be trifling, more especially as it is practically a *cul-de-sac*. Any serious attempt to check the habit must originate with the individual. There was a remedy. Nothing would eradicate what was mischievous but the reform of the evil. He believed nothing but the excommunication of China would produce the reformation of the individual, necessary to accomplish that. He then pointed out that to do this successfully they must send men of education who could influence the literary class, who could speak to these scholars, not the type of missionary now despatched to China. Until that is done, he maintains, it would be as impossible to introduce Western views, either theological or moral, into China, as to attempt to Protestantise Ireland without having first converted the priests. Mr. Alexander, the Secretary of the Anti-Opium Society, had little to say in reply to the overwhelming weight of unimpeachable evidence brought by such authorities as Sir Thomas Wade and Mr. Lay, but fell back upon missionary evidence as to the deleterious effects of opium smoking, and urged that the missionaries had no interest in decrying their country. It is unfortunate for his argument, however, that so many of them should for years have made such persistent efforts to blacken fair fame. Possibly their conduct in this respect may be more execrable. It would also furnish a new and splendid walk for *Pakites*, on that would probably also attract many pedestrians from the sultry wharves beneath. A brief ride by tramway to the little station at Plantation Road would start the *caudors* on a pleasant and, for a time, novel road, terminating at Magazine Gap, whence a fine

road with easy gradients would tempt many to the journey down that way.

In case of an attack on the island, moreover, this proposed road would prove of some strategic importance as it could be used to move troops in safety, being completely protected from observation from the south side. The cost of the road would not be very great, and it seems a pity that a public work calculated to give a large amount of immediate pleasure if not of immediate profit during the summer should be deferred.

THE OPIUM QUESTION.

The crowded meeting which assembled on the 24th March in the Indian Section of the Society of Arts, London, to hear the paper on the Opium Question read by Mr. H. M. Barnes, of the Indian Civil Service, led perhaps to the most important discussion on this subject which has ever been held. The lecturer first traced the history of the trade; then showed its value, which he gave at £13,100,000; and demonstrated what would be the effect of its discontinuance on exchange, namely to cause a further heavy depreciation in the rupee; reviewed at length the history of the Indian trade in the dredging of the *Opium* and *spirit* markets with which the shillings of ignorant but well intentioned persons have been coaxed out of their pockets to support this quixotic and injurious crusade. Finally, Mr. M. Brownhawke, a native of India, writing to bear witness that the *Opium* eating has not spread to any considerable extent, nor the evil arising from that habit attained any marked proportions, makes the following pointed suggestion:—“If legislative interference with regard to one kind of intoxicants ‘more than another is required for India, it is with respect to European wines and spirits.’” There is great truth in this. Very recently attention was called in the press to the enormous increase in the import of intoxicating liquors into India. One thing is certain. Before offering to extract the sum of opium from the Oriental eye, it would be better English would be philanthropists to seek to remove the beam of alcohol from the national organ of vision. As compared with the vice of drunkenness, and its far-reaching consequences, the opium habit is venial if not harmless. The Society for the Suppression of the Opium Trade has been fairly beaten from the field, worsened in every argument, whether of consistency, or of common sense. Let them now, if really sincere, turn to the *party* question; you may win votes relying on the uninterested philanthropy of your fellow countrymen; you may, through Parliament, use the despotic power of the British Government to destroy one of the best products of India and subvert its market; but you may not be able to sustain, sustain, sustain, to the challenge, here and there, of the *caudors*’ houses in order. An organized effort to annihilate the evils of intemperance wisely and moderately conducted would command general support and sympathy. It may be less sentimental, it may not have about it the glamour of a patriotic self-sacrifice, it will be for the saving of their own flesh and blood, for the healing of miseries patent to all, and in their very soul, and with some of the most gigantic vested interests in the Kingdom arrayed against them; but what will that matter if they be in real downright earnest? Difficulties should spur them to exertion, and the desire to purge the nation of the vice which is its most fatal curse should be a strong an incentive as any true Englishman could wish to have.

HONGKONG LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

A meeting of the Legislative Council was held on the 9th inst. There were present—His Excellency the Governor, Sir William Robinson, K.C.M.G., Hon. G. T. O’Brian, C.B., Colonial Secretary; Hon. W. W. Goodman, Attorney-General; Hon. J. H. Stewart Lockhart, Registrar-General; Hon. F. H. Vay, Acting Colonial Treasurer; Hon. F. A. Cooper, Director of Public Works; Hon. R. M. Barton, R.N., Harbour Master; Hon. C. P. Chater; Hon. M. K. Bellasis; Hon. T. H. Whitehead; Hon. E. B. Bellasis; Mr. A. M. Thompson, Acting Clerk of Council.

MINUTES.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed.

FINANCIAL MINUTES.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY moved that the financial minutes, having been read, be referred to the Finance Committee.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL seconded.

REPORTS.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY—I have the honour by direction of His Excellency to lay upon the table the Acting Harbour Master’s Report for 1891 and the Postmaster General’s Report for 1890.

The Postmaster General’s Report for 1891.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY—The financial minutes, having been read, will now be referred to the Finance Committee.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL seconded.

QUESTIONS.

Hon. T. H. Whitehead asked the following question:—Will the Government lay on the table copy of the following papers:—(1) Petition to Government from Fung Ming Shan and other Chinese, dated about 17th November, 1876, for permission to form an Anti-Kidnapping Association with power to employ detectives. (2) Report in recommendation of the Committee of Enquiry of Messrs. C. V. and J. Francis. (3) Correspondence from the Government to Lord Kimberley, Secretary of State for the Colonies, in connection with the subject; and Secretary of State’s Dispatches in connection with the same. (4) Correspondence between the Government and the Secretary of State for the Colonies in connection with the Po Leung Kuk, and the giving of legal status and power to the Society.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY—The papers which have been asked for have been already printed. They will be found in the *Political Register* of 1877, which is to be found in the *Archives* of the Colonial Office.

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at the selling rate here of about 36 cents yielded \$70,000, but as soon as this Gambling Ordinance was enacted here, in fact simultaneously with its enforcement, a large demand sprang up for Manila lottery tickets. While people trafficking in Manila lottery tickets were persecuted and harassed, men buying and selling Manila lottery tickets were allowed to play their trade in peace and freedom. The Manila lottery ticket was evident, and the Spanish Government was anxious to meet the occasion; they came forward and filled up the gap. The gambling law instead of being damaging has proved bone-legal to the authorities in Manila. In December, 1891, they increased their issue to 30,000 double tickets, which at 81¢ each represents \$30,000.00. Only 10,000 of these were issued per month is collected in this colony. You can imagine the amount of distress and privation which the drain of this money is likely to entail on the already impoverished inhabitants of this colony. It is a serious matter, and I demand active measures at the hands of His Excellency. I maintain that it is an evil that requires prompt and effective measures to eradicate. My paper has not been published yet. With your Excellency's permission I will read it.

"That the Government shall take early and effective steps to put a final stop to the sale and exchange of lottery tickets in this colony, and in the event of the passing of the Gambling Ordinance will be in accordance with the spirit which has been pointed out by the hon. member is perfectly correct. If the law was made to suppress gambling of all kinds in this colony and the Manila lottery was maintained, then I think that it should be suppressed along with it, and with the same stringency as other forms of gambling. I am sorry to say that I am sorry to say it is not within my power to legislate, but I have the information from the hon. member opposite that there are firms established in this colony actually dealing in lottery tickets openly and dealing largely with the proceeds from the Poles, then I say the law is being carried out partially, but only partially, and for that reason I support the resolution of the hon. member opposite. The members of this Council are of opinion that the Manila lottery should not be suppressed. It should not be included in the Gambling Ordinance, but from my reading of the Ordinance, it will be included in the Ordinance.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL.—I beg to move the second reading of the Bill.

OFFICERS AND CLERKS IN PRISON.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL.—I beg to move the second reading of a Bill entitled "An Ordinance to amend Ordinance No. 4 of 1881 relating to offences against the person."

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL.—I beg to move the second reading of the Bill.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded.

The Council then went into Committee, after which the Bill was read a second time.

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stage is a spacious and lofty greenroom with actors' dressing rooms, and dwelling accommodation for the largest company, with a special entrance at the side of the theatre. The roof and galleries will be supported on light and graceful iron stanchions in such a place as not to obstruct the view in any way. The building will be open on all sides, with windows and ventilators facing Market Street on the north side, a large open garden on the south, a private street on the east, and Po Yat Street on the west, while at night light will be obtained from a series of special construction. The dress of the theatre will be provided with a detached residence a few yards from the theatre, within the compound, and watchmen will be in the building at all times to prevent any annoyance to players from thieves or rough characters of any kind. The theatre is being built from the plans and under the superintendence of Mr. Albert Denison, C.E.

THE LABUK PLANTING COMPANY, LIMITED.

An extraordinary general meeting of the shareholders of this Company was held on the 10th inst. Mr. J. H. Cox occupied the chair, and there were also present Messrs. F. A. Gomes (director), Robert Lyall, M. A. Carvalho, C. A. Ozoria, A. R. Carter, J. P. Brady, Chuan Lin, J. Birrell (secretary), and G. B. Ellis (auditor).

The notice convening the meeting having been read.

The CHAIRMAN said—I think you are all aware that the capital of the Company has been expended, and that we have a further funds to go on with. We are also in debt to a sum in Hongkong, and this is the reason why I called for this meeting, to inform you of the inability of winding up the Company. I need not say anything further. It will merely propose the following resolution—"That it has been proved to the satisfaction of this meeting that the Company cannot by reason of its liabilities continue its business, and that it is advisable that the Company be wound up."—(Applause.)

Mr. J. P. BRAZ—*I do not think we have been fully in possession of the financial position of the Company, and I think that the wording of the resolution might be somewhat amended. We have not received any other information, and I think it might as well retain our hold on the property. I therefore propose as an amendment that it has not been proved that the Company by the insufficiency of its funds cannot continue to retain possession of the property. The Company might be wound up.*

Mr. BRAZ—*This resolution is drawn up in accordance with the Company's Ordinance and it is perfectly impossible to take any such amendment as you have suggested. The meeting has called to pass a specific resolution and all that can be done is to pass it or reject it. You can have a partial winding up. If the Company goes into liquidation it is for the liquidators to say whether they are to take part in the assets or not. The liquidators may be of the opinion that the money is on mortgage which existed in my time, when the business belonged to me, and that it is a resolution to wind up the Company by the Ordinance.*

The CHAIRMAN—*Mr. BRAZ's amendment cannot be put to the meeting.*

Mr. BRAZ—*If your rule that it cannot be put to the meeting is not allowed, I don't know how we are to pass a resolution when we are not in possession of the full financial position of the Company.*

This was carried, ayes, 200, and the meeting concluded.

HUMPHREYS ESTATE AND FIN. ANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.

An extraordinary general meeting of the shareholders of this Company was held on the 5th inst. for the purpose of confirming special resolutions passed on April 12th. Mr. L. Poesseker occupied the chair and there were also present Messrs. J. D. Humphreys, T. J. O'Farrell, J. D. Hutchinson (directors), W. J. Smith, E. C. Bay, E. W. Terrell, W. B. Clement, H. Macleod, G. Peacock, G. C. Gould, L. Saitter (secretary), and G. B. Ellis (auditor).

The CHAIRMAN formally proposed the following resolutions to be confirmed:—(1) That it is desirable to reconstruct the Company, and accordingly that the same be wound up voluntarily. (2) That J. J. Kinnear be appointed liquidator for the winding up of the same. The meeting was adjourned in excess of four hours.

The meeting then separated.

DISASTEROUS COLLISION ON THE COAST.

TOTAL LOSS OF THE GERMAN STEAMER "PEKING."

Intelligence has been received here by wire of the loss of the German steamer "Peking," Captain F. Schmitz. The telegram, received from the agents of the steamer, was as follows:—"Peking is a total loss; has been run ashore at anchor by the steamer China Merchants' S. N. Co.'s steamer China Merchants' S. N. Co. on the 14th April. The Peking is a 500-ton steamer, having a cargo of rice, cotton, and cotton-seed, and a great many of accounts are paid on fourteen days' credit, for the sake of securing cash discount. I think you will consider that the report and statement of accounts is very satisfactory, if not the very best ever submitted to you; if you take into consideration the fall in exchange and the generally depressed condition of the market, and the general statement of accounts which have been presented to you accepted and confirmed by you.

Mr. LEVY seconded, and the motion was unanimously carried.

The CHAIRMAN—*Intimating that the divided warrants would be ready the following day, remitted that fall in exchange had been taken into account, and that the balance was considerably in excess of the same period of 1891.*

The meeting then separated.

GREEN ISLAND CEMENT COMPANY, LIMITED.

An extraordinary general meeting of the shareholders of this Company was held on the 5th inst. for the purpose of confirming special resolutions passed on April 12th. Mr. L. Poesseker occupied the chair and there were also present Messrs. D. Humphreys, T. J. O'Farrell, J. D. Hutchinson (directors), W. J. Smith, E. C. Bay, E. W. Terrell, W. B. Clement, H. Macleod, G. Peacock, G. C. Gould, L. Saitter (secretary), and G. B. Ellis (auditor).

The CHAIRMAN formally proposed the following resolutions to be confirmed:—(1) That the draft agreement, submitted to this meeting and accepted to be made between this Company and its liquidator, be hereby authorized to consent to the registration of a new Company to be named the Green Island Cement Factory, limited, with a memorandum and articles of association which will have already been prepared with the private and confidential advice and approval of the steamer "Peking." (2) That the draft agreement, which had been submitted to this meeting and accepted to be made between this Company and its liquidator be hereby authorized to consent to the registration of a new Company to be named the Green Island Cement Factory, limited, with a memorandum and articles of association which will have already been prepared with the private and confidential advice and approval of the steamer "Peking." The Peking was a well-known and popular steamer, having been running her upwards of eleven years. She was a vessel of 500 tons, was built in England for Messrs. Watts, Milburn & Co., and run for many years with other vessels belonging to the same owners. The steamer "Peking" was however, all sail, and was not built for the coasting trade, but for the foreign market.

The Peking was informed by Messrs. Siemens & Co. was fully insured in a Hamburg office.

THE SUSPICIOUS FIRE IN THIRD STREET.

Mr. H. E. Wodehouse held an inquiry on the 5th inst. into the circumstances of a fire which took place on the 1st instant in No. 143, Third Street, and which was of such a性质 that it was deemed necessary to call a special meeting of the shareholders of the Company to consider the same.

Mr. JUDD seconded the proposition, and the resolution was unanimously carried.

Mr. JUDD proposed a vote of thanks to the General Managers for the way in which they had conducted the business of the Company, and the vote of thanks was carried.

The CHAIRMAN—*Intimating that the General Managers had given the steamer "Peking" to the steamer "China Merchants' S. N. Co." for the purpose of carrying the same to the steamer "Peking" (which was then in the steamer "Peking" when it was informed by Messrs. Siemens & Co. that the same had been insured in a Hamburg office.*

Mr. JUDD asked what was the cause of the proposed alterations in the articles of association.

The CHAIRMAN said that the only important point was the reduction of capital from \$1,000,000 to \$800,000.

Mr. JUDD seconded the proposition, and the resolution was unanimously carried.

Mr. JUDD proposed a vote of thanks to the General Managers for the way in which they had conducted the business of the Company, and the vote of thanks was carried.

The CHAIRMAN—*Intimating that the General Managers had given the steamer "Peking" to the steamer "China Merchants' S. N. Co." for the purpose of carrying the same to the steamer "Peking" (which was then in the steamer "Peking" when it was informed by Messrs. Siemens & Co. that the same had been insured in a Hamburg office.*

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For the light now approaching completion there, the second light-keeper was transferred to the Capo d'Agular Lighthouses, the third to Green Island, and a temporary third light-keeper, employed whose salary is debited to the cost of the erection of the Gap Rock Lighthouse.

The second light-keeper, keeper died on 15th January last, the post has since been succeeded by the Officer now in charge of D'Agular.

The third light-keeper, on probation on 1st December last, resigned on the 26th January, and his successor resigned on 31st May. The Officer now in charge of Green Island Light has been confirmed in the appointment of third light-keeper.

His pay on an incremental system is gradually producing a better class of Chinese assistant light-keepers. It would be glad to see Police pensioners come forward as applicants for the post, shortly to be filled amongst the assistants at the Gap Rock.

GOVERNMENT GUNPOWDER DEPOT.

During the year 1886, there had been stored in the Government Magazine, Stonewall's Island:

| Report - 2 | No. of App'rents | Case, &c. Weight |
|---------------------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Gunpowder, privately owned | 17,067 | 353,500 |
| Do. Government owned | 619 | 62,339 |
| Cordite, privately owned | 411 | 23,359 |
| Do. Government owned | 223 | 23,359 |
| Explosive Compounds, privately owned | 1,106 | 80,716 |
| Explosive Compounds, Government owned | 19 | 595 |
| Total | 19,753 | 573,737 |

On the 31st December, 1886, there remained as under:

| No. of App'rents | No. of Cases, &c. Weight |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Gunpowder, privately owned | 3,369 |
| Do. Government owned | 72,140 |
| Cordite, privately owned | 316 |
| Do. Government owned | 173 |
| Explosive Compounds, privately owned | 480 |
| Explosive Compounds, Government owned | 19 |
| Total | 4,511 |

For the year 1886, the following were issued for distilled British rum:

Since the issue of the proclamation prohibiting the export of munitions of war to China, very large quantities of gunpowder privately owned have been transferred to Macao.

The condition of the Magazine is good, new roof having been put on during the year. The work was completed. The subject of the explosion of the magazine from the premises of the Magazine is one which has been prominently forward for the last two years successively. At present this is the only portion of Stonewall's Island, where the public is said without special "parent" and when it is said, together with what can be like precedents, will be the conclusion in this case seems to call for special attention.

The Gunner resigning on the 15th September, and his successor on the 10th November last by an officer on probation—since confirmed.

IMPORT AND EXPORT (OFFICIAL OFFICE).

The return shows that during the year the amount of opium exported as follows:

1886. 62,483 lbs. 44. 55,414. 4,342 lbs. Exported. 55,021 lbs. 57,984. 26. 45 lbs. Through cargo reported 7,189. 18,004 lbs. but not landed 1891. 18,256 do.

Increases 2,253 chevaux 22,186 pounds were issued from this office, being an increase of 1,742 for 1886.

A daily Memo of Export Permits was issued the year sent to the Chinese Customs Office in Victoria.

Surprise visits were paid to 114 yards. One case of deficiency (one chest) was detected, presented, and the owner fined \$100. Sundry technical breaches of the Opium Ordinance were found.

REVENUE.

Table XXVI is a comparative statement of revenue for the past five years. In the course of correspondence appearing in the public prints last year certain items of revenue collected from European constructed vessels were referred to. European shipping was more heavily taxed than Chinese, the inference being that the shipowner paid the higher rates. Examination of these items will show that the inference is most misleading, and the illustrations inaccurate.

1st.—"Burgers" Brokers in 1886, paid \$10,000 a year for the privilege of issuing a permit to engage in shipping and insurance business.

2d.—Examination of masters, mates, and engineers \$1,910. These fees are paid by the individuals who come up for examination. The examination of qualified officers is of the greatest interest to the shipowners, the law (and also insurance) requires certain certificates of fitness to be issued and up to date.

3d.—"Burgers" Brokers in 1886, paid all the world over in China. They are a distinct benefit to owners and as much general revenue as stamp duty.

4th.—Examination of masters, mates, and engineers \$1,910. These fees are paid by the individuals who come up for examination. The examination of qualified officers is of the greatest interest to the shipowners, the law (and also insurance) requires certain certificates of fitness to be issued and up to date.

5th.—"Burgers" Brokers in 1886, paid all the world over in China. They are a distinct benefit to owners and as much general revenue as stamp duty.

6th.—Examination of masters, mates, and engineers \$1,910. These fees are paid by the individuals who come up for examination. The examination of qualified officers is of the greatest interest to the shipowners, the law (and also insurance) requires certain certificates of fitness to be issued and up to date.

7th.—"Burgers" Brokers in 1886, paid all the world over in China. They are a distinct benefit to owners and as much general revenue as stamp duty.

8th.—"Burgers" Brokers in 1886, paid all the world over in China. They are a distinct benefit to owners and as much general revenue as stamp duty.

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12th

Stockbrokers' Association of Hongkong.

Hongkong, 11th M.

| NAME. | VALUE. | PAID UP. | RESERVE. | TO CREDIT ACCOUNT. |
|-------|--------|----------|----------|-----------------------|
| | | | | |

38.58 1890— for 4-year ending
31st Dec., 1891 Feb. 29, '92 110 percent. p
sellers.

| LOANS TO IMPERIAL CHINESE GOVERNMENT. | AGENTS FOR THE LOAN. | AMOUNT OF LOAN. | PAR VALUE. | OUTSTANDING BONDS. | WHEN PAYABLE. | CLOSING QUOTATIONS. |
|---|---------------------------|-----------------|------------|--------------------|---|---------------------------|
| Chinese Govt. 8 per cent. Silver Loan 1884 C | H.K. & S'hai Banking Cor. | \$1,594,700 | \$500 | 670 | 15 Oct. each year until 1892 | 14 per cent. prem. buyers |
| Do. 7 per cent. Do. 1886 E | Do. | Tls. 767,200 | Taels 250 | 2,896 | 31 Mch. and 30 Sept. each year until 31 March 1917. | 10 per cent. prem. buyers |
| DEBENTURES. | | | | | | |
| R.K. Hotel Co. 6 ^{1/2} % Mortgage D'furet 1889 | Do. | (1) \$400,000 | \$500 | 600 | Half yearly, on 10 April and 19 October. | par. |
| Hongkong & Kowloon Wharf & Godown Co. 5 ^{1/2} % Debentures of 1891 | Do. | \$500,000 | \$250 | 2,000 | Half yearly, on 1 April and 1 October. | par. |
| China Merchants S. N. Co. 7 ^{1/2} % Mortgage Debentures | Do. | (2) £300,000 | £100 | 1,190 | Quarterly on 1 Sept. 1 Dec., 1 March & 1 June. | 1 per cent. prem. buyers |
| Société Française des Charbonnages du Tonkin 8 ^{1/2} % Debentures | The Company | \$600,000 | \$100 | all | 1896 or earlier at option of Co. on 6 months' notice. | par. |
| Green Island Cement Co., Ltd. 8 ^{1/2} % Mortgage Debentures | Do. | \$50,000 | \$100 | all | Half yearly, 30 June and 31 December. | par. |

